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SOURCE Soviet newspapers as indicated.

CONSUMERS'-GOODS TURNOVER IMPROVES

BELORUSSIAN TRADE TURNOVER INCREASES -- Sovetskaya Belorussiya, No 34, 17 Feb 49

Trade turnover of Consumers' Cooperatives increased in Belorussian SSR from 485,500,000 rubles in the first quarter of 1948 to 707,800,000 rubles in the fourth quarter, a gain of 45.8 percent. More goods were sold to the public in 1948 than in 1947, as follows: bread, 61 percent, and in particular, wheat bread, 3.4 times; sugar, 2.3 times; confectionery products, 2 times; fish products, almost 1.5 times. The sale of cotton cloth to the public increased 59 percent over 1947; sewn articles, 37 percent; shoes, 22 percent; matches, 30 percent; and dishware, 40 percent.

PRICES DROP IN ARGENTIAN SSR -- Communist, No 35, 12 Feb 49

Prices have been reduced on a number of items put out by artels and enterprises of Trade Cooperatives of Armenian SSR. Prices on all food delicacies and confectionery products have been reduced 15-20 percent. Prices of some building materials have been considerably reduced; for example, brick and tile, 40 percent, stone, roofing material and paints, 20 percent.

TOMSK MILL TO MAKE BLANKETS -- Pravda Ukrainy, No 39, 17 Feb 49

A new spinning and weaving mill is being constructed in Tomsk. It is to put out the first lot of vicuna wool blankets by 1 May.

VLADIVOSTOK MAIL PLANT TRANSFERRED -- Krasnoye Znamya, No 31, 8 Feb 49

The complete equipment of the Vladivostok Nail Plant has been transferred to the Primorsky Krai Administration of Local Industry and is being used to set up a new, large-scale nail shop in the Vladivostok Machine Plant of the Krai Local Industry. The shop will produce up to 1,000 tons of various nails per year.

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CHITA COOPERATIVE-INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES LAG IN 1948 -- Zabaykal'skiy Rabochiy,
No. 24, 5 Feb 49

The Fourth Session of the Chita Oblast Soviet of Workers' Deputies, held on 1 February, considering the results of the work of local and cooperative industry in 1948, found them the most unprofitable and inefficient enterprises in the oblast. Not one oblast industrial division, administration, or union fulfilled the 1948 plan. The population of the oblast has failed to receive sufficient quantity and assortment of boots, new shoes, furniture, brick, lime, etc. The quality of production continues to be extremely low, and the cost is high.

The executive committees of local soviets of workers' deputies and the Oblast Executive Committee have not improved their control over local and cooperative industry enterprises since June 1948, with the result that, of all the rayons in Chita Oblast, only local industry in Kyrinskiy, Ononskiy, and Byrdinskiy rayons and in the city of Chita managed to complete the 1948 gross production plan.

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